Ay, marry, what of these ? *POET.* When Fortune, in her shift and change of mood,
Spurns down her late belov'd, all his dependants, Which labour'd after him to the mountain's top, Even on their knees and hands, let him slip down [3], Not one accompanying his declining foot.

PJIN. Tis common :
A thousand moral paintings *I* can show [4], That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune's [5]

A similar phrase occurs in Ben Jonson's Every Man in his Humour : " By this air, the most divine tobacco I ever *drank I* ** To *drink,* in both these instances, signifies to *inhale.* STEEVENS. Dr. Johnson's explanation appears to me highly unnatural and unsatisfactory. " To drink the air," like the *haustos tztherios* of Virgil, is merely a poetical phrase for *draw the air,* or *breathe.* To " drink the free air," therefore, " through another," is to breathe freely at his will only; so as to depend on him for the privilege of life : not even to breathe freely without his permission,

WAJCEFIELB.

So, in our author's Venus and Adonis:

" His nostrils *drink the air."* Again, in The Tempest:

" I *drink the air* before me."

MALONE. * — let him SLIP down,]

The old copy reads :

"------let him *sit* down.'*

The emendation was made by Mr. Rowe.

STEEVENS.

[4] A thousand moral paintings I can show,] Shakspeare seems to intend in this dialogue to express some competition between the two great arts of imitation. Whatever the poet declares himself to have shown, the painter thinks he could have shown better.

JOHNSON.

5— these quick blows of FORTUNE'S—] This was the phraseology of Shakspeare's time, as I have observed in a note on King John, Act II, Sc. I. The modern editors read, more elegantly,—of *fortune.* The alteration was first made in the second folio, from ignorance of Shakspeare's diction.

MALONE.

Though I cannot impute such a correction to the ignorance of the person who made it, I can easily suppose what is here styled the phraseology of Shakspeare, to be only the mistake of a vulgar transcriber or printer. Had our author been constant in his use